

ness the memory of which will not soon be erased.

A gentleman who has travelled extensively in the old world and whose innate love of the beautiful in Nature as well as in Art had been cultivated by keen observation in speaking of Bowmanville years ago told me that he had seen no town of its size anywhere with which he was more charmed.

How the town was originally located where it is, is a question that has often been asked but I presume the correct answer is, that it was largely accidental.

X The original road cut out of the forest between Toronto and Kingston, opening up communication between the west and east of the Province, and part of which constitutes our main street (King St.) led people to settle and take up farms on each side of it. The Danford road as first surveyed ran farther south than where it was eventually located. The partial remains of a bridge, built of heavy timbers, was still in existence 40 years ago a short distance below Mr. J. B. Martyn's property. Wh the change was made I never heard, but suppose there was an easier grade in overcoming the steepness of the hill on the west. It follows of course in a new settlement, the primary wants of the community must be met, hence the mill site became utilized a dam was built and a small saw and grist mill erected. This must have been some time about the beginning of the century.

It would be most interesting did one know the man or men, who struck the first blow in clearing the few trees around the stream on which the mill was built. I fancy if in the spiritual world that unfathomable mystery to us mortal creatures, he has been permitted to see and know what has occurred in the wonderful transformation of men and things, since the sound of his axe first reverberated through the unbroken forest, in chopping that first tree down, he would express admiration of the men and women who by lives of toil and industry helped to bring it about. It required grit, muscle and heroism of the highest kind, to battle with the almost insurmountable difficulties they met with, in the first small settlement of log huts.

Around this little nucleus of the mill, the place began to grow. The first extension was to the west. The only road opened leading to the lake was between the Bates farm and the one now occupied by Mr. Robert Beith Ex-M.P. (Waverley

Stock Farm.) This side line, passing Mr. Isaac Tabb's farm was opened at a very early period and as the business increased it became the highway to the lake. Goods in the summertime were brought in schooners from the States and ports east and west, they being anchored out and the cargoes brought to land in little boats. If the shore had been bolder and the water less shallow, the probabilities are that a wharf would have been built and the growth of the town would have been still farther west than where it now stands. Smuggling was very extensively carried on at that time and if the truth were known thousands of dollars worth of valuable articles were annually imported without a knowledge of H. M. Customs House Officers.

I am speaking now of a later period after the place had grown considerably. One amusing escapade occurred in this connection worth relating. A merchant carrying on business some three miles east, had brought over a cargo of salt. The plan adopted was to have the goods landed during the night and buried out of sight in the sand and subsequent removal under night to a place of safety. The gentleman referred to having brought across the lake a schooner load which at that time bore a heavy duty, none being obtainable in the province, deposited it in the usual way. It so happened that a fellow smuggler in the village got wind of it and he quietly stole the whole lot and salted the proceeds. No redress could be obtained by No. 1 as he dare not reveal the facts.

The late Mr. J. T. Coleman collected and published in pamphlet form a great many facts giving names and dates of the first settlers who came into Darlington from the States; that the first few arrived in 1794. I do not propose in this short paper to refer to any length to events occurring previous to my own personal knowledge, but must necessarily allude to a few persons and matter as connecting links in the narrative.

Somewhere about 1840 the place had grown to quite an extent, the settlement of Darlington had proceeded at a rapid rate, the town keeping pace with it. The principal business places at that time were on the western hill, there were three or four stores, a large tavern and cooper shop. The Methodist church was then also on the hill. To go back a little, Mr. Coleman states, and, I think, correctly, that the first store was opened by Lewis Lewis, who remained in business for four years